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# Global Development Commons

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## MAJOR DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

TRADITIONAL FOCUS	NEW DIRECTION
Public and Government Institutions	Private Sector and Voluntary Organizations
Official Development Assistance	Private Capital Flows and Remittances
National Development Strategies	National, Sub-national, and Regional Plans
Development Practitioner Awareness	Public and Private Engagement
“Sole Proprietor” Approach	Evolving and Expanding Partnerships
Domestic and Local Market Oriented	International and Regional Trade Strategy
Providing Goods and Services	Building Capacity/Strengthening Institutions
Stable and Secure Environments	Unstable and Ungoverned Environments
Civilian-led Development	Civilian-Military Cooperation



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## INFORMATION SHARING TRENDS

<b>GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT COMMONS</b>		
	<b>TRADITIONAL FOCUS</b>	<b>NEW DIRECTION</b>
	<b>INFORMATION SEEKING</b>	<b>ACTIVE INFORMATION EXCHANGE</b>
<b>FUNCTION</b>	One Way PC Based Emails	Feedback Loop Mobile Based Wiki Interface
	<b>INFORMATION</b>	<b>EVOLVING KNOWLEDGE</b>
<b>CONTENT</b>	Passive Review Text Provider Based	Active Contribution Text, Video & Voice (Mash Up) User Based
	<b>EXPERT OWNERSHIP &amp; KNOWLEDGE</b>	<b>PARTICIPATORY OWNERSHIP &amp; KNOWLEDGE</b>
<b>DEVELOPMENT</b>	Academic U.S. Government Private Sector Local Non-Governmental Organizations	Community (Communal/Collective Intelligence)

## **The “Development Times” They Are A-Changing**

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Bob Dylan, the American singer-songwriter, author, and musician-poet, got it right a few years ago when he said the “Times They Are A-Changing”. He was of course referring to what he saw as a “generation gap” facing those who became politically aware in the 1960s and their predecessors. A few of us here can still remember some of those famous lines "come senators, congressmen, please heed the call".

Nearly five decades later, the “Times They are A' Changing” seems like an apt message for today’s seismic shifts in development assistance and Internet use. In just a few short years, ground-breaking changes have taken place in development theory and practices along with dizzying advances in information technology, knowledge sharing, and internet communication. And, these dramatic trends show no signs of slowing down any time soon. These shifts in development and internet use provide a serious challenge to the *status quo* and an exciting opportunity for our development and internet community.

This **FIRST TABLE** highlights some of the recent development trends. On the left column are the more traditional approaches to development assistance and on the right are more recent trends such as the shift to:

-- Private Sector and Foundations;

- Sub-national and Regional plan over National Development Strategies;
- Increasing work in poorly or ungoverned spaces; and,
- Civilian and military “development coordination and cooperation” not just humanitarian assistance.

One startling fact that has received considerable attention in the last few months—*remittances from workers abroad back to their home country*—clearly exemplifies the swift pace of change. Last year, according to a recent report, these workers sent home nearly \$300 billion dollars to their countries of origin compared with less than \$100 million just 7 years ago. The remittances by themselves are nearly **three times** the world’s foreign aid budgets combined, some have estimated.

Similarly, Official Development Assistance or ODA which accounted for nearly 80% of the “development pie” just 10 years ago relative to private funds and other sources, now represent less than 25% of funds flowing to developing countries. The “Times” they are indeed A’ Changing.

The **NEXT TABLE** highlights some of the recent shifts in information technology and internet communications including:

- Movement away from PC-dominated “information sharing” from fixed platforms towards mobile/wireless platforms and Wikis;
- The migration from “Read only” information towards fully active end-user participation and social networking the likes of U-Tube and Facebook; and

-- The shift from “Expert Knowledge” to more “community-based knowledge” and “end- user experience”.

According to a recent report last month by the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development -- the OECD -- the next several billion connections to the internet in the developing world are likely to be on mobile/wireless platforms, rather than fixed ones. Already in a number of countries, wireless users out number those on fixed networks by “more than 20 to 1” says the OECD report. So again, as the Dylan song goes, the “Times They are A’ Changing” Indeed.

The rapidly changing landscape of development assistance, such as an explosion in public-private partnership, combined with the fast-paced, user-dominated, social networking focus of today’s internet are some of the driving forces propelling the Global Development Commons. As Administrator Fore has said, the Commons is a:

**"community of continuous and real-time exchange, collaboration, partnership and action between public and private donors, agencies, NGOs, host governments, and civil society – all operating as equals."**

Today’s Forum is the first step to explore ways to further advance the Commons.